To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Castillo, Mariano
Sent: Tue 8/11/2015 2:16:12 PM
Subject: Re: EPA update

Thank you, Richard, very helpful.

Want to ask for more clarity on this line that jumped out to me:

"Based on the data we have seen so far, EPA and ATSDR do not anticipate adverse health effects from exposure to the metals detected in the river water samples from skin contact or incidental (unintentional) ingestion. Similarly, the risk of adverse effects to livestock that may have been exposed to metals detected in river water samples from ingestion or skin contact is low. It is advisable to avoid areas with orange discoloration in the river water."

This passage is absent in the link you sent with the updates.

My question is if what you pasted is the newest information, and if so, if you can elaborate on the likelihood of adverse health effects being low.

My colleague Elizabeth Cohen wrote this piece, where toxicologists pointed in a different direction, but the EPA, I presume, is in the best position to provide guidance on this.

http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/10/us/animas-river-toxic-spill-colorado/index.html

Best,
Mariano

From: Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:41 PM
To: Castillo, Mariano
Subject: EPA update

Mariano, saw your article earlier. Not sure if you received this today however, hope

below helps. More info: http://www2.epa.gov/region8/gold-king-mine-release-emergency-response

Rich Mylott

USEPA Region 8

303-312-6654

Aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates that the plume associated with the Gold King Mine release has dissipated downstream and there is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell. Ultimately, the water quality data we are collecting will define the plume.

EPA is collecting and assessing water quality from the Animas and San Juan Rivers daily. EPA has compared surface water quality data collected on August 5 and 6 to screening levels for human health developed by EPA. The screening levels for human incidental ingestion during recreation are based on an exposure duration totaling 60 days, 8 hours/day. The State of Colorado has developed screening levels for agricultural exposure. The screening levels for agricultural exposure are based on an exposure duration totaling 30 days.

Based on the data we have seen so far, EPA and ATSDR do not anticipate adverse health effects from exposure to the metals detected in the river water samples from skin contact or incidental (unintentional) ingestion. Similarly, the risk of adverse effects to livestock that may have been exposed to metals detected in river water samples from ingestion or skin contact is low. It is advisable to avoid areas with orange discoloration in the river water.

Although the pH levels between Cement Creek and Durango have returned to baseline levels, washing with soap and water after contact with the river water is a sound public health practice to minimize exposure to the metals and bacteria that may be present in any untreated river water.

Over the next several days, we will be jointly evaluating data and information with partners to determine when access to the Animas River and downstream locations will be restored for activities and uses such as rafting, fishing, irrigation, and drinking water. EPA, tribal, state and local officials are coordinating these decisions based on sampling data, risk screening levels, and other related factors. We do not anticipate any reopening decisions until at least August 17. The timing of these decisions could vary

among local, state and tribal governments based on local conditions and by uses. Until notified otherwise, people should continue to abide by existing closures.